WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A conscious sedation system comprising:

a) a controller which generates a request for a predetermined response from a patient, wherein the controller analyzes at least a response generated by the patient,

b) a response testing apparatus including:

(1) a request assembly which communicates to the patient the request generated by the controller; and

(2) a response assembly which is used by the patient to generate the response and which communicates the response to the controller, wherein the request assembly and/or the response assembly is attached to the patient's fingers and wherein the response is generated by movement of the patient's fingers.

2. The system in claim 1 wherein the response testing apparatus is a finger touch response apparatus comprising receptacles attachable onto the patient's fingers, electrical contacts on the receptacles, a biasing member of a predetermined stiffness that holds apart the receptacles.

3. The system in claim 2 wherein the finger touch response apparatus generates a threshold response when the electrical contacts are moved within a predetermined proximity to each other.

4. The system in claim 2 wherein the biasing member includes a strain gage that measures the patient's response.

5. The system in claim 4 wherein the finger touch response apparatus generates a threshold response when a predetermined force is registered by the strain gage of the biasing member.

6. The system in claim 5 wherein the response is continuous after the threshold response is generated.

7. The system in claim 3 wherein the threshold response can be varied based on at least one or more of the patient's response.

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8. The system in claim 2 wherein the receptacles provides a stimulus to the patient's fingers.

9. The system in claim 1 wherein the response testing apparatus is a handpiece sensor mechanism having sensors to detect the curling or uncurling movement of at least one or more of the patient's fingers towards or away from the palm.

10. The system in claim 9 wherein the sensors are attached along the length of the fingers and the palm to detect the bending motion when the patient curls the fingers towards the palm or uncurls the fingers away from the palm.

11. The system in claim 10 wherein the sensors can be selected from linear-displacement sensors and/or a strain gage.

12. The system in claim 9 wherein the handpiece sensor mechanism generates a threshold response when the sensors on the fingers are moved to a predetermined curl.

13. The system in claim 12 wherein the response is continuous after the threshold response has been generated.

14. The system in claim 9 wherein the handpiece sensor mechanism includes a palm stimulation source that provides a stimulus to the patient's hand.

15. The system in claim 9 wherein the handpiece sensor mechanism is stretchable or flexible with a part of and/or the whole hand.

16. The system in claim 15 wherein the handpiece sensor mechanism is a latex-free Nitrile glove.

17. The system in claim 12 wherein the threshold response can be varied based on at least one or more of the patient's response.

18. A response testing apparatus for a conscious sedation system including:

(1) a request assembly which communicates to the patient the request generated by the controller; and

(2) a response assembly which is used by the patient to generate the response and which communicates the response to the controller, wherein the request assembly and/or the response assembly is a finger touch response apparatus attached to the patient's fingers and wherein the response is generated by movement of the patient's fingers.

19. The system in claim 18 wherein the finger touch response apparatus generates a threshold response when the electrical contacts are moved within a predetermined proximity to each other.

20. The system in claim 18 wherein the biasing member includes a strain gage that registers the patient's response.

21. The system in claim 19 wherein the finger touch response apparatus generates a threshold response when a predetermined force is registered by the strain gage of the biasing member.

22. The system in claim 21 wherein the response is continuous after the threshold response is generated.

23. The system in claim 19 wherein the threshold response can be varied based on at least one or more of the patient's response.

24. A response testing apparatus for a conscious sedation system including:

(1) a request assembly which communicates to the patient the request generated by the controller; and

(2) a response assembly which is used by the patient to generate the response and which communicates the response to the controller, wherein the request assembly and/or the response assembly is a handpiece sensor mechanism having sensors to detect the curling movement of the patient's fingers towards the palm and wherein the handpiece sensor mechanism is attached to the patient's fingers and wherein the response is generated by movement of the patient's fingers.

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25. The system in claim 24 wherein the sensors are attached along the length of the fingers and the palm to detect the bending motion when the patient curls the fingers towards the palm or uncurls the fingers away from the palm.

26. The system in claim 24 wherein the sensors can be selected from linear-displacement sensors and/or a strain gage.

27. The system in claim 24 wherein the handpiece sensor mechanism generates a threshold response when the sensors on the fingers are moved to a predetermined curl.

28. The system in claim 27 wherein the response is continuous after the threshold response has been generated.

29. The system in claim 24 wherein the handpiece sensor mechanism is stretchable or flexible with the hand.

30. The system in claim 29 wherein the handpiece sensor mechanism is a latex-free Nitrile glove.

31. The system in claim 27 wherein the threshold response can be varied based on at least one or more of the patient's response.

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